

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /074 W
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R 231000Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5474

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, US

SUBJECT: A LAO "DOCTORS'S PLOT"

1. THE NEWSPAPER XAT LAO OF OCTOBER 3/4 1975, CARRIED
THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WHICH ACCUSES THE CIA OF BEING
INVOLVED IN THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL PROMINENT LAO LEADERS.

BEGIN TEST. (TRANSLATED FROM LAO.) CIA ACCUSED OF
PLANNING PRINCE PHETSARATH'S ASSASSINATION: UNCLE PHEUNG,
74 YEARS OLD, SAID THAT AMERICA HAD PLANNED PRINCE
PHETSARATH'S DEATH BY HAVING AMERICAN AND FILIPINO
DOCTORS GIVE INJECTIONS TO HIM WHICH CAUSED HIS HEALTH
TO DECLINE UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1959. UNCLE PHEUNG, WHO
WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF PRINCE PHETSARATH MADE THIS
REVELATION DURING A PAST PAINS RECOUNTING CEREMONY
(COMMENT: CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING SESSION?), WHICH WAS
ORGANIZED ON OCTOBER 18 BY THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY
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ADMINISTRATION OF TASSENG SITHANA NEUA AT WAT HOUA

MUONG IN VIENTIANE.

UNCLE PHEUNG NOW LIVES IN VIENTIANE, BUT USED TO ACCOMPANY PRINCE PHETSARATH TO MANY PLACES. HE TOLD HIS STORY WITH TEARS AND LAMENTATIONS AND HAD TO INTERRUPT HIS ACCOUNT AT TIMES BECAUSE OF THE PAIN THAT IT CAUSED HIM. THOUGH UNCLE PHEUNG IS NOW 74 YEARS OLD, HE COULD NOT HOLD BACK HIS TEARS.

HE TESTIFIED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE CIA HAD ASSASSINATED THIS VERY IMPORTANT LAO LEADER BECAUSE WHEN PRINCE PHETSARATH RETURNED TO LAOS, PLOITICAL CIRCLES WERE AFRAID THAT THE PRINCE MIGHT BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER. AT THAT TIME THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN LAOS WAS ENORMOUS AND THEY HAD NOMINATED PHOUI SANANIKONE AS PRIME MINISTER. IN THE SAME YEAR PHOUI SANANIKONE HAD ARRESTED PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG AND IMPRISONED HIM AT PHONE KHENG CAMP. HE ADDED THAT WHEN PRINCE PHETSARATH HAD JUST RETURNED TO LAOS, THE CIA SENT A VERY IMPORTANT LETTER TO HIM. IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT PRINCE PHETSARATH MIGHT UNMASK THE CIA AND THUS THE CIA DECIDED TO LIQUIDATE HIM. PRINCE PHETSARATH WAS SLIGHTLY ILL AND THEN DIED, PLUNGING THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTRY INTO MOURNING AND SORROW.

UNCLE PHEUNG ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE PARTY AT PHOUI SANANIKONE'S HOUSE ON THE NIGHT IN WHICH A GRENADE EXPLOSION KILLED MR. KOU VORAVONG (COMMENT: WE RECALL THE KOU WAS IN FACT KILLED BY BEING SHOT WITH A PISTOL IN 1954). THE GRENADE KILLER WAS A PHOUI SANANIKONE MAN WHO FLED TO THAILAND AND HAS NEVER BEEN PUNISHED. QUINIM PHOLSENA'S KILLER WAS A MAN NAMED BAN WHO LIVED AT WAT PHIA AND WAS PAID 45 THOUSAND KIP FOR CARRYING IT OUT.

THE PAST PAINS RECOUNTING AT WAT HOUA MUONG THAT WAS FILLED WITH ANGER AND TENSION. THERE WERE MANY PAIN RECOUNTERS WHO HAD BEEN OPPRESSED BY THE AMERICANS AND THEIR REACTIONARY HENCHMEN. THE WITNESSES WERE ANGRY AT THE AMERICANS AND THE REACTIONARIES WHO HAD TREATED THE LAO PEOPLE IN SUCH A WAY. END TEXT

2. COMMENT: IN THIS AND IN MANY OTHER SESSIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED BY FBIS THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY IS BUSY REWRITING HISTORY. THEY MAY HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE POPULATION OF THE FORMER VIENTIANE SIDE ZONE WHICH PROBABLY REMEMBERS AMERICAN ACTIVITY AND PRESENCE IN LAOS WITH SOME NOSTALGIA AND AT WORST INDIFFERENCE. HOWEVER, THE LPRP IS NOTHING IF NOT PERSEVERING AND WILL PROBABLY SUCCEED IN THE END. THEY ARE CERTAINLY UNLIKELY TO HEAR ANY COUNTER ARGUMENTS. CORCORAN

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